

Appl. No. 09/837,686
Amdt. dated August 18, 2005
Reply to final office action of May 18, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant received the final Office action dated May 18, 2005, in which the Examiner: (1) rejected claims 1, 3-7, 10, 15, 18-21, 26-28, 32, 33 and 37 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,854,945 ("Criscito"); (2) rejected claims 8, 16 and 29 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Criscito in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,280,283 ("Raasch"); and (3) rejected claims 11, 13, 14, 22, 24, 25, 31 and 34-36 as being unpatentable over Criscito, in view of Raasch and U.S. Patent No. 6,167,462 ("Davis"). In this Response, Applicant amends claims 1, 3-5, 7, 10, 13-18, 20-21 and 24-25. Also, Applicant cancels claims 26-37 and adds claims 38-56. Claims 1, 3-25 and 38-56 are pending. Based on the arguments and amendments contained herein, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims.

I. CLAIM AMENDMENTS

The majority of the claim amendments to claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 10, 13-18, 20-21 and 24-25 are intended to return claims 1 and 3-25 to the condition of the originally filed claims. New claim 56 incorporates the limitations of canceled claim 2. Minor amendments to the originally filed claims have been made to correct typographical errors, to ensure proper antecedent basis of claim terms and to remove unnecessary dependencies. Also, claim 15 was amended to clarify how the computer, the scanner and the keyboard are connected.

II. § 102 AND § 103 REJECTIONS

Amended claim 1, in part, requires "a scanner including a first port and a second port coupled together through a communication bus." Criscito does not teach or suggest Applicant's claimed "scanner including a first port and a second port coupled together through a communication bus" as suggested by the Examiner (see final Office action, page 2, item 2). In Figure 6, Criscito shows a scanner 60 that has only one I/O port 12. In referring to the I/O port 12, Criscito states "[t]he scanner has an I/O port 12 to which six (6) internal lines from the scanner are connected" (see col. 5, lines 9-10). Criscito also teaches using a "Y" connector having three connectors (65a, 65b and 65c) to interconnect a keyboard 14, a computer 20a and the scanner 60. However, only one connector

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(connector 65a) attaches to the scanner 60. Thus, Criscito does not teach or suggest "a scanner including a first port and a second port coupled together through a communication bus" as required in claim 1. Davis and Raasch are also deficient in this regard. None of the references cited by the Examiner, nor combinations of the references, teaches or suggests this limitation. For at least these reasons, Applicant submits that claim 1 and all claims that depend from claim 1 are allowable. a teaches or suggests

Amended claim 15, in part, requires that "the keyboard connects to a first port of the scanner and the computer connects to a second port of the scanner." As described above, Criscito teaches a scanner 60 that has only one port (see Figure 6 and col. 5, lines 9-10). Thus, Criscito does not teach or suggest that "the keyboard connects to a first port of the scanner and the computer connects to a second port of the scanner" as required in claim 15. None of the references cited by the Examiner, nor combinations of the references, teaches or suggests this limitation. For at least these reasons, Applicant submits that claim 15 and all claims that depend from claim 15 are allowable.

III. NEW CLAIMS

Claim 38, in part, requires that "the scanner is configured to receive keyboard commands from the keyboard and perform a function based on the keyboard commands even if the computer is powered off." Criscito does not teach or suggest this limitation. As shown in Criscito, the keyboard 114 is powered (via the signal "VDD") by the computer 20a. If the scanner 60 is "wedged" between the computer 20a and the keyboard 14, both the scanner 60 and the keyboard 14 are powered by the computer 20a (see Fig. 6 and col. 5, lines 14-35). Presumably, if the computer 20a of Criscito is "powered off," neither the keyboard 14 nor the scanner 60 receive power to operate. Thus, Criscito does not teach or suggest "the scanner is configured to receive keyboard commands from the keyboard and perform a function based on the keyboard commands even if the computer is powered off" as required in claim 38. None of the references cited by the Examiner, nor combinations of the references,

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teaches or suggests this limitation. For at least these reasons, Applicant submits that claim 38 and all claims that depend from claim 38 are allowable.

Claim 42 requires "connecting a computer to a scanner," "connecting a keyboard to the scanner" and "performing a function by the scanner based on keyboard commands from the keyboard, even if the computer is powered off." As described above, Criscito teaches a scanner 60 that receives power from a computer 20a. If the computer 20a is "powered off," the scanner 60 is also powered off. Thus, Criscito does not teach or suggest "performing a function by the scanner based on keyboard commands from the keyboard, even if the computer is powered off" as required in claim 42. None of the references cited by the Examiner, nor combinations of the references, teaches or suggests this limitation. For at least these reasons, Applicant submits that claim 42 and all claims that depend from claim 42 are allowable.

Claim 47, in part, requires that "the computer receives keyboard commands from the keyboard via the scanner, even if the scanner is powered off." Criscito does not teach or suggest this limitation. Specifically, Criscito teaches "when the scanner is powered up...the scanner turns on the 'traffic control switch', i.e., gates TG1 and TG2 are initially turned on to provide a connection between the [computer] and the [keyboard]" see (col. 6, lines 44-50). Since the gates TG1 and TG2 of Criscito are turned on (i.e., the scanner 60 is powered on) to provide a connection between the computer and the keyboard, Criscito does not teach or suggest "the computer receives keyboard commands from the keyboard via the scanner, even if the scanner is powered off" as required in claim 47. None of the references cited by the Examiner, nor combinations of the references, teaches or suggests this limitation. For at least these reasons, Applicant submits that claim 47 and all claims that depend from claim 47 are allowable.

Claim 51, in part, requires "transmitting keyboard commands to the computer via the scanner, even if the scanner is powered off." As described above, Criscito teaches a scanner whose transmission gates (TG1 and TG2) are turned on to provide a connection between a computer and a keyboard. Thus,

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Criscito does not teach or suggest "transmitting keyboard commands to the computer via the scanner, even if the scanner is powered off" as required in claim 51. None of the references cited by the Examiner, nor combinations of the references, teaches or suggest this limitation. For at least these reasons, Applicant submits that claim 51 and all claims that depend from claim 51 are allowable.


IV. CONCLUSIONS

In the course of the foregoing discussions, Applicant may have at times referred to claim limitations in shorthand fashion, or may have focused on a particular claim element. This discussion should not be interpreted to mean that the other limitations can be ignored or dismissed. The claims must be viewed as a whole, and each limitation of the claims must be considered when determining the patentability of the claims. Moreover, it should be understood that there may be other distinctions between the claims and the cited art which have yet to be raised, but which may be raised in the future.

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. It is believed that no extensions of time or fees are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to Hewlett-Packard Development Company's Deposit Account No. 08-2025.

Respectfully submitted,

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